

North High Students Presented Awards

Junior Michael Jones was named speaker of the year at the North High School Speech Club's sixth annual banquet. Mason Wolpert, last year's winner, presented the award.

Mark Woodruff was named most promising boy and Bronwen Crowell, most promising girl. The certificate for sportsmanship was awarded to Maxine Malini. Those seniors graduating with honors in speech were announced by Lehr R. Mushrush, North High speech coach and president of the Southern California Debate

League. They are Leonard Basinger, Karen Jackson, Sandra Rayes, and Frances Whiteman. This is the first year that such an honor has been given.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT was made at this time to those who have assisted and coached the speech squad during the past season. Those honored were Harry Tryon, W. R. Martin, Mrs. Mary Coover and Miss Kay Curry. Tryon was named as a new speech coach for North High at this time.

New speech lettermen were announced. They are Bronwen Crowell, Stuart Goodgold, Michael Jones, Ralph Lippman, Bill Mangali, Carol D. Robinson, Clark Smith and Mark Woodruff.

The National Forensics League officers for the fall semester 1962-63 are Elias Baumgarten, president; Petter Gregora, vice president; Maureen Bereskin, secretary; Ralph Lippman, corresponding secretary and Judy Morgan, treasurer.

NEW NATIONAL Forensics League members are Richard Ashley, Richard Baker, Kay Bohnet, Stuart Goodgold, Ralph Lippman, Allan Lundy, Sue Oldt, JanJet Briley, Kathy Borges, Maxine Malini, Pam Struble, Vivian Uva, David Valeska.

Richard Barraclough, Harold Brage, Richard Stremel, Bronwen Crowell, Michael Buck, Clark Smith, Joan Keller, Randy Rich, Mark Woodruff, Sheldon Stern, Sharon Lininger, Shelby Peterson and Karen Brown.

Plunge Opens Next Monday

Summer schedules at the city plunge, Torrance Boulevard and Madrona, will go into operation next Monday, it was announced here by Harry Van Bellehem, director of recreation.

The pool will be open each week day, Monday through Friday, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. and again from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday schedules call for the pool to be open from 9 a.m. until noon and from 1 to 5 p.m. The pool will be open from 1 to 6 p.m. on Sundays.

School Consolidation Plans Given Further Study by State

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District

Forty years ago California had 4,000 school districts. This year it has 1,650. This sizeable drop in the number of individual districts has, however, resulted in a generally higher quality of education for most California students at an economical cost to the taxpayers. But behind this reduction there is a long history of local

and legislative struggles which is scheduled to reach a climax in 1963.

The legislative problems of school district reorganization and consolidation are still under review. In 1959, we enacted a law which required the already established county organization of every county to prepare and submit to the State Board of Education not later than September 15, 1963,

a master plan for unification of all districts into new units offering instruction in all grades from kindergarten through grade 12. The Board, the plan is the invited to the voters in the affected territory for approval, before being put into effect.

SCARCELY was the ink dry on this law before strenuous efforts to repeal it, or amend it in various ways, were started. Numerous bills on the matter were introduced in our 1961 session, but none were passed. In our 1962 budget session an Assembly resolution was adopted, calling for an interim study of whether the deadline date should not be postponed for another four years. A subcommittee of the Assembly education committee recently held two days of hearings on the matter.

Quite a parade of witnesses appeared and presented testimony on aspects of the problem. Trustees and superintendents from districts in various parts of the state, county superintendents and county committee members, spokesmen for interested organizations, and officials of the state department of education were in attendance.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE was informed that five counties now have a single, unified school district. Two others have completed their master plan studies. All of the others have at least started the studies and hearings legally required, and many are well on the road to completion. The department of education estimates that less than a dozen counties will be unable to make the Sept. 15, 1963 deadline.

The California Commission on School District Organization made up of representatives of nine statewide organizations in the educational fields, which drafted and sponsored the master plan law in 1959, indicated its opposition to any extension of the deadline. Its spokesman reviewed a recent survey, in which 33 county school superintendents gave the opinion that there is no need for an extension of the deadline. Only 15 believe there should be an extension, and of these, 5 believe the State Board of Education should be permitted to grant extensions for good cause.

THE DEPARTMENT of education recommended that the law be amended to authorize the Board of Education to grant extensions beyond the present deadline for not more than one year for substantial cause. It also recommended elimination of a quirk in the present law, under which minorities of voters have several times defeated a reorganization plan approved by a county committee and the State Board. It also suggested a change in the financing formula to aid newly consolidated districts in meeting salary and staffing problems at the outset.

The subcommittee was requested to hold further hearings on such matters as what to do with the 508 districts which had less than 100 pupils in attendance last year, the 18 which had less than 26 pupils, or the 49 which enrolled less than 10. In such districts the unit cost is highest in relation to the education offered to their pupils.

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